

**Announcement**  
**Amendments to Rules 41, 64, 65, 65.2, 67, 69, 70 and 500**  
**of the Family Court Rules of Civil Procedure**

By Order dated July 10, 2020 and effective November 1, 2020, the Delaware Family Court has amended Rules 41, 64, 65, 65.2, 67, 69, 70 and 500 of the Family Court Rules of Civil Procedure (the “Rules”).

These amendments are a continuation of Family Court’s ongoing, comprehensive review of its civil procedure rules. The amendments are designed to make the Rules more readable and user friendly for self-represented litigants. Several amendments remove or modernize outdated and unnecessary language. Other Rules are amended to reflect the current practices of Family Court. As an example, the amendments update language related to the Court’s issuance of capiases and preliminary injunctions while also removing the unnecessary language in Rule 67 related to deposits in Court.

Of particular note are the amendments to Rules 41 and 500. The amendments to Rule 41 clarify when dismissals are with prejudice. Amended Rule 41 also shortens from 1 year to 6 months the time period after which a case will be dismissed for failure to prosecute. The amendment to Rule 500 adds a new subsection that provides guidance on the application of child support rules when such rules are amended during the course of a multi-day hearing. Also notable are the amendments to Rule 65.2, which clarify the timing of and processes related to emergency and interim orders.